

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 213

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Cuonzo Martin and the University of Tennessee Volunteers on an outstanding 2013-2014 basketball season.

WHEREAS, this body is pleased to recognize Head Coach Cuonzo Martin and the University of Tennessee (UT) 2013-2014 men's basketball team, a talented squad that overcame a mid-season slump to attain great heights in the big dance, or the NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Vols finished their pre-conference slate at 9-4 on January 4, 2014, having racked up quality wins by beating tournament teams Xavier by 15 points and No. 1 seed and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked Virginia by 32 points; and

WHEREAS, after a conference loss on February 15, UT was languishing in mediocrity at 15-10 with a conference record of 6-6; and

WHEREAS, haughtily dismissed by college basketball pundits, the Vols rose to the challenge by winning 5 of their next 6 games, including 4 consecutive victories, to finish their pre-tournament schedule at 20-11 and 11-7 in the Southeastern Conference (SEC); and

WHEREAS, in the SEC Tournament, Tennessee bested South Carolina to advance to the semi-finals and finished the regular season at 21-12, marking the 24<sup>th</sup> 20-win season in program history and Coach Martin's second 20-win season during his three-year tenure at UT; and

WHEREAS, the Vols then received an at-large invitation to the big dance as an 11 seed, which marked their 20<sup>th</sup> all-time appearance in the tourney; despite starting their first-round game slowly, UT triumphed over Iowa, 78-65 in overtime, to advance to the round of 64; and

WHEREAS, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the tournament on March 21, Tennessee blasted Massachusetts, 86-67, and then rested up in preparation for their third game in five days; and

WHEREAS, staunchly denying any notion of fatigue, despite having played an extra game, Tennessee came out of the gates hard and fast to wallop Mercer by twenty points, 83-63, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round and advance to the prestigious Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament for the seventh time in school history; and

WHEREAS, having held their opponents to a mere 71 points per game over their last eight games, the Vols journeyed next to Indianapolis to take on the No. 2 seed and 7<sup>th</sup> ranked Michigan Wolverines; and

WHEREAS, trailing by fifteen points at the 10:55 mark in the second half and by ten points with 3:40 remaining in the game, the Volunteers nearly pulled off one of the biggest comebacks in recent Sweet Sixteen history; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ratcheted up their defense, limiting Michigan to one basket over the last 3:40 and forcing four turnovers in the final 97 seconds, to pull within one point with six seconds left; and

WHEREAS, on the ensuing possession, Michigan benefited from a questionable charging foul to barely hold on and win this thriller by two points; and

WHEREAS, despite this disappointing loss, Tennessee still ranks third among SEC teams in NCAA Tournament victories during the past decade with 11; and

WHEREAS, throughout this outstanding campaign and deep run in the tournament, the Vols were led by the terrific trio of Jordan McRae, First Team All-SEC; Jarnell Stokes, First Team All-SEC and All-SEC Tournament; and Josh Richardson, SEC All-Defensive team; and

WHEREAS, each of the other members of the Tennessee squad contributed significantly to the team's overall success; those players are Antonio Barton, Galen Campbell, Quinton Chievous, A.J. Davis, D'Montre Edwards, Robert Hubbs III, Brandon Lopez, Jeronne Maymon, Armani Moore, Rawane Ndiaye, Derek Reese, and Darius Thompson; and

WHEREAS, the Vols benefited greatly from the basketball expertise, coaching brilliance, and inspirational leadership of Head Coach Cuonzo Martin, who is now 63-41, with a winning percentage of .606, all-time on Rocky Top; he has a 13-7 record in March at UT, including an impressive 7-2 record in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, the other essential members of the Vols' coaching staff are: Tracy Webster, associate head coach; Jon Harris, assistant coach; Kent Williams, assistant coach; Nicodemus Christopher, associate strength and conditioning coach; Marco Harris, director of basketball operations; and Chad Newman, associate director of sports medicine; and

WHEREAS, Coach Martin and the UT Vols have distinguished themselves as a great college basketball team, and they should be specially recognized upon their highly successful 2013-2014 season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Coach Cuonzo Martin and the University of Tennessee Volunteers upon winning three games in the NCAA Tournament and reaching the prestigious Sweet Sixteen during a 24-win season and extend to these fine young men our best wishes for every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.